

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-13

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /121 W

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R 011623Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2359

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

S E C R E T ATHENS 0705

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR UR

SUBJ: GREEK-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. IN COURSE OF EXTENDED DISCUSSION WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR FEB 1, AMB PAPAIOANNOU, CHIEF OF FIRST POLITICAL DIRECTORATE (COMMUNIST COUNTRIES), MFA, COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS ON CURRENT STATE OF GREEK-SOVIET RELATIONS.

2. SINCE NOVEMBER 25 COUP, SOVIET PRESS HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY SHARP IN ITS CRITICISM OF NEW REGIME, AND INCIDENCE RATE OF "ANTI-GREEK SLOGANS" HAS RISEN. GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER TETENES PROTESTED LOCALLY TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR YEZHOF, WHO COUNTERED WITH EXAMPLES OF ANTI-SOVIET ARTICLES IN GREEK PRESS. GREEKS RETORTED THAT ANTI-SOVIET ARTICLES IN GREEK PRESS ARE HOWEVER SPORADIC AND UNCOORDINATED, WHEREAS CONSISTENT PATTERN OF WELL-ORCHESTRATED ANTI-GREEK PROPAGANDA CAN BE READILY DISCERNED IN SOVIET PRESS, AN INDICATION OF OFFICIAL DIRECTION AND PLANNING.

3. ON TWO OCCASIONS IN COURSE OF LAST THREE MONTHS,

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PAPAIOANNOU HAS TWITTED SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABOUT

HYPOTHETICAL PLANS FOR BALKAN REGIONAL COOPERATION, JUSTIFYING SUCH ACTIVITY WITH REFERENCES TO NEED FOR SELF-DEFENSE OF SMALLER NATIONS IN FACE OF U.S. SOVIET DETENTE ARRANGEMENTS. IN BOTH CASES, PAPAIOANNOU SAID, SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAS COME FORTH WITH SURPRISINGLY STRONG STATEMENT THAT BOTH SOVIET UNION AND U.S. REGARD EFFORTS TOWARD MULTILATERAL BALKAN COOPERATION AS UNDESIRABLE BOTH IN PRINCIPLE AND BECAUSE THEY WOULD DETRACT FROM MAIN THRUST OF CSCE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA. TASCA

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